

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. An optical fiber cable comprising:

a central reinforcing element (1);

a layer of optical fibers (4) surrounding the central reinforcing element (1);

a buffer layer (5) surrounding the layer of optical fibers (4); and

an outer sheath (7) surrounding the buffer layer (5);

the cable being characterized in that it has only a single layer of optical fibers (4) surrounding the central reinforcing element (1);

in that the buffer layer (5) presses the bare optical fibers (4) into contact against the central reinforcing element (1) in such a manner as to couple them mechanically to the central reinforcing element (1); and

in that the majority of the volume of the buffer layer (5) is constituted by a material that is both solid and flexible.

2. An optical fiber cable comprising:

a central reinforcing element (1);

a layer of optical fibers (4) surrounding the central reinforcing element (1);

a buffer layer (5) surrounding the layer of optical fibers (4); and

an outer sheath (7) surrounding the buffer layer (5);

the cable being characterized in that it has only a single layer of optical fibers (4) surrounding the central reinforcing element (1);

in that the buffer layer (5) presses the optical fibers (4) against the central reinforcing element (1) in such a manner as to couple the optical fibers (4) mechanically to the central reinforcing element (1) by contact between the bare optical fibers (4) and the central reinforcing element (1), said mechanical coupling reducing relative longitudinal movements between the optical fibers (4) and the central reinforcing element (1) during temperature variations of the cable; and

in that the portion of the buffer layer (5) in contact with the bare optical fibers (4) is constituted by a material that is both solid and flexible so as to withstand radial flattening without exerting damaging mechanical stress on said optical fibers (4).

Claims 3-15 (Canceled)

16. An optical fiber cable including a central reinforcing element (1), and a plurality of optical fibers (4) surrounding the central reinforcing element (1), the cable being characterized in that the bare optical fibers (4) are pressed in contact against the central reinforcing element (1) in such a manner as to be mechanically coupled to the central reinforcing element (1).

Claims 17-32 (Canceled)